

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 090957Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5007

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP TH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIOTY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 4597

EXDIS--MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

WARNING--SENSTITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED/NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 DECLASSIFICATION DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD

ENDING NOON APRIL 9

1. GENERAL

MILITARY ACITIVITY TOOK A SUDDEN JUMP UPWARD IN MR-3 DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS WITH HEAVY NVA ATTACKS AGAINST XUAN LOC, CAPITAL OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE, APPROXIMATELY 60 KILOMETERS EAST OF SAIGON ON HIGHWAY 1. AN NVA 5TH DIVISION UNIT ATTACKING NEAR

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TAN AN, CAPITAL OF LONG AN PROVINCE, STALLED TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY 4

TO THE DELTA. BIEN HOA AIRBASE RECEIVED A HEAVY ROCKET ATTACK.
OVER-ALL ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA DECREASED SOMEWHAT.

2. MR-3

THE NVA ESCALATED THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING SHARPLY IN MR-3 DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. A MAJOR ATTACK WAS DIRECTED AT THE LONG KHANH PROVINCE CAPITAL OF XUAN LOC, SPEARHEADED BY THE 812TH REGT OF THE NVA 6TH DIVISION. A HEAVY GROUND ASSAULT SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY, TANKS AND APCS WAS LAUNCHED EARLY APRIL 9. SAPPERS HAVE PENETRATED TO THE MARKETPLACE OF THE CITY AND FIGHTING HAS BEEN HEAVY IN AND AROUND THE TOWN. XUAN LOC IS DEFENDED BY THE 43D REGT OF THE 18TH ARVN DIVISION. WHICH WAS WEAKENED IN THE FIGHTING AT DINH QUAN AND HOAI DUC LAST MONTH. NVA FORCES OCCUPYING THE HIGH GROUND NEAR THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 20 ARE IMPEDING GVN ATTEMPTS TO REINFORCE THE 43D REGT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 52D REFT, 18TH DIVISION. THE FALL OF XUAN LOC WOULD POSE SUBSTANTIAL NEW THREAT TO LONG BINH BASE AND THE BIEN HOA AREA. A GVN ARMORED TASK FORCE IS MOVING INTO A POSITION EAST OF BIEN HOA.

IN LONG AN, THERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKS SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF TAN AN, WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 275TH REGT OF THE 5TH NVA DIVISION INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE ATTACKS. ROUTE 4 WAS INTERDICTED FOR A TIME, BUT IS NOW REPORTED TO BE OPEN.

BIEN HOA AIRBASE AND ENVIRONS CAME UNDER A HEAVY ROCKET ATTACK BETWEEN 0500 AND 0730 HOURS APRIL 9. THE ATTACK CONSISTED OF 29 ROUNDS OF MIXED 122 MM AND 107 MM ROCKETS. TWO AIRMEN WERE KILLED, AND A FUEL DUMP AT AN ARVN REAR BASE FACILITY WAS DESTROYED. ONE ROCKET IMPACTED BETWEEN 1000 AND 150 METERS FROM THE CONGEN APARTMENT COMPOUND.

A VNN RECON TEAM MADE CONTACT WITH LOCAL POPULATION IN THE VICINITY OF NHA TRANG. ACCORDING TO THE TEAM'S REPORT, ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NVA, AND ALL OFFICES ARE FLYING NVA FLAGS. TANKS INITIALLY ENTERED THE CITY, BUT HAVE NOW DEPARTED. THE NVA IS USING THE NHA TRANG RADIO STATION TO BROADCAST PROPAGANDA TO THE PUBLIC. ASSORTED TYPES OF AA WEAPONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ALONG THE COAST BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF NHA TRANG.

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AT 1800 APRIL 8, RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THIEN GIAO DISTRICT TOWN APPROXIMATELY 15 KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHAN THIET, CAPITAL OF BINH THUAN PROVINCE. THIEN GIAO WAS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY NVA FORCES AT THE TIME. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT PHAN THIET WAS ROCKETED ON APRIL 7 AND 8. PROVINCE HQS WAS HIT AND HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO A POINT OUTSIDE THE TOWN. PHAN THIET REMAINS UNDER GVN CONTROL AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN DEAL WITH THE THREAT.

CURRENTLY, FIVE VNN SHIPS ARE PROVIDING NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT FOR GVN FORCES AROUND PHAN THIET.

VNAF CONTINUES TO OPERATE FROM PHAN RANG AB, NINH THUAN PROVINCE AND ARVN UNITS ARE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE BASE. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE THAT NVA UNITS IN THE AREA MAY BE PREPARING TO MOVE ON PHAN RANG.

THE DEPUTY MR-3 COMMANDER, MG NGUYEN VAN HIEU, WAS FOUND DEAD AT HIS DESK THE EVENING OF APRIL 8, WITH A SINGLE GUNSHOT WOUND IN THE HEAD. HIS DEATH IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO A "WEAPONS ACCIDENT."

3. MR-4

ACTIVITY DELTA-WIDE DECREASED DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS, AS 4TH NVA DIVISION UNITS HAVE DISENGAGED FROM AROUND CAN THO. THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER FEELS THE 4TH DIVISION WILL RENEW CONTACTS SHORTLY, POSSIBLY IN MASS ATTACKS.

MOC HOA IS QUIET FOLLOWING THE HEAVY ABFS REPORTED YESTERDAY, AND THE 5TH NVA DIVISION IS REPORTED TO BE MOVING FROM AROUND MOC HOA TO THE PARROT'S BEAK AREA ALONG THE HAU NGHIA BORDER. ROUTE 29 TO MOC HOA HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE APRIL 6.

THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP INCREASE IN ATTACKS REPORTED ALONG ROUTE 23 TO SA DEC CITY, AND THE ROAD WAS CLOSED MOST OF APRIL 8. NEW BATTALIONS ASSIGNED TO THE ARVN 21ST DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN PLAGUED WITH HIGH DESERTION RATES AND WILL NOT BE USED UNTIL MANPOWER IS STABILIZED.

WARNING NOTICE: SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION.

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